

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 ORM-02 DHA-02 TRSE-00 CU-02 IO-13 /077 W  
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R 031544Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4682  
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
USMISSION USBERLIN UNN  
USMISSION NATO

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E O 11652: NA  
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, GE, GW  
SUBJ: SPIEGEL ARTICLE ON GDR IMMIGRATION POLICY STIRS INTEREST  
IN EAST BERLIN

1. AN ARTICLE IN THE MAY 2 EDITION OF THE WEST GERMAN  
MAGAZINE SPIEGEL HAS STIRRED THE INTEREST OF LOCAL OBSERVERS,  
INCLUDING MEMBERS OF THE FRG REPRESENTATION. THE ARTICLE  
CONTENDS THAT THE GDR PROMULGATED A NEW SECRET REGULATION ON  
MARCH 8 WHICH MAKES IT "BASICALLY ILLEGAL" FOR A GDR CITIZEN  
TO APPLY FOR EMIGRATION TO THE FRG. IT IS SAID THIS  
REGULATION WAS THE SUBJECT OF RECENT QUESTIONS FROM SED  
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FUNCTIONARIES TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE IN BERLIN FOR AN INTER-  
PRETATION OF HOW THE REGULATION IS TO BE APPLIED. REFERENCE WAS  
APPARENTLY MADE IN THIS CONNECTION TO THE RECENT  
PERMISSION TO EMIGRATE TO WEST BERLIN AND WEST GERMANY  
GIVEN TO SOME WELL-KNOWN GDR CULTURAL FIGURES AND THEIR  
FAMILIES.

2. THE ARTICLE INTERPRETS THE NEW REGULATION TO MEAN THAT THE GDR HAS DECIDED TO TAKE A HARD STAND IN GENERAL AGAINST THOSE WHO APPLY TO LEAVE THE GDR AND SUGGESTS THAT SUCH PEOPLE WILL BE FIRED FROM THEIR POSITIONS AND WILL HAVE TO ACCEPT OTHER EMPLOYMENT AT A LOWER LEVEL. AT THE SAME TIME, THE SPIEGEL EXPLAINS THAT CERTAIN GROUPS OF PEOPLE WILL BE EXEMPT: THOSE WHO HAVE APPLIED UNDER THE INNER-GERMAN AGREEMENTS ON FAMILY REUNIFICATION OR WHO, FOR THE GDR'S OWN PURPOSES, WILL BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE GDR. IT IS THE LATTER CATEGORY WHICH IS SAID TO ENCOMPASS THE WELL-KNOWN FIGURES WHO HAVE BEEN CRITICAL OF THE GDR AND WHO HAVE ALREADY LEFT, AS WELL AS THOSE WHO MAY BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE IN THE FUTURE.

3. THE SPIEGEL CONTENTS THAT THE NEW REGULATION IS ONE OF THE WAYS IN WHICH THE GDR INTENDS TO MAINTAIN CONTROL OF CULTURAL POLICY IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE BIERMANN AFFAIR. ANOTHER IS TO GIVE PERMISSION FOR PERFORMING CERTAIN CULTURAL EVENTS LIKE THEATRICAL PRODUCTIONS, WHICH WHILE NOT FULLY ACCEPTABLE IN CONTENT TO THE GOVERNMENT, ARE BELIEVED TO BE IMPORTANT INDICATORS OF THE GDR'S SYMPATHY FOR CULTURAL FIGURES AND THEIR WORKS.

4. THE POINT IS MADE THAT IF SUCH A NEW REGULATION EXISTS, IT WOULD BE IN CONTRADICTION TO THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT, BUT THE ARTICLE DOES NOT PURSUE THIS ARGUMENT.

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5. COMMENT: OFFICERS AT THE FRG REPRESENTATION TOLD EMBASSY OFFICERS THEY DO NOT KNOW THAT SUCH A REGULATION EXISTS. ONE REPRESENTATIVE, HOWEVER, SUGGESTED THAT THE GDR REGULATION MAY NOT BE "NEW" BUT MAY HAVE EXISTED FOR SOME TIME IN ANOTHER FORM. THEY REPORT THAT GDR/FRG FAMILY REUNIFICATIONS DURING THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF 1977 ARE RUNNING AT THE SAME RATE AS A YEAR AGO, I.E. ABOUT 900 FOR THE PERIOD, A CATEGORY WHICH THE SPIEGEL ARTICLE DESCRIBES AS "EXEMPT" FROM THE NEW REGULATION.

IN ANY EVENT, IT APPEARS FROM PRESS REPORTS THAT THE FRG PERMREP PLANS TO RAISE THE SUBJECT OF THE "NEW" REGULATION WITH GDR AUTHORITIES AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME. POLANSKY

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, POLICIES, IMMIGRANTS, EMIGRANTS, EXIT VISAS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**To:** STATE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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